

BOY SCOUT "HISTS" LANTERN ON POLE FOR A GOOD TURN

Freddy Schneider, No Matter How Tired, Fulfills Chosen Duty to Crippled Watchman Every Evening

Every evening at 8 o'clock a bright-faced boy with a shock of red-brown hair takes off his dark blue overalls and, donning his street suit, winds his way down to Girard avenue and 2d street, there to fulfill a duty.

He doesn't go straight home. He may be as hungry as a little bear, or as tired as only a boy can be who has worked in a dairy from early in the morning until supper time, doing anything and everything that is asked of him, but he goes just the same.

For if he doesn't go "Mr. Green," the night watchman down there by the rail road tracks, will not only be disappointed, but will be extremely embarrassed. There will be no one to "hiss" the lantern.

And so Freddy Schneider, that is the boy's name, gets down and "hisses" it. If you ask Freddy why for the last two years he has delegated to himself the performance of this nightly task, he will tell you that "Mr. Green has only one good leg—the other one is wooden—and that it's a pretty hard matter for a man to climb a pole higher than your second-story window and fasten a lantern on it."

FREDDY A REAL SCOUT.

Freddy is a Boy Scout, one of the banner members, and has been for several years; therefore, climbing tall poles and scaling high walls and performing other dangerous feats are second nature to him.

Moreover, the seed of the Boy Scout teaching, that every member who is true to his uniform will do at least one "good turn" a day, has taken firm root in Freddy's heart, and, judging from the testimony of the night watchman who lives at 223 1/2 Fairhill street, and from the neighbors in the vicinity, the boy is not content with just one "good turn," and in time of stress he's the standby of the neighborhood.

When the housekeeper across the way found it was nearing noon with her husband coming home to lunch and the grocery boy not yet arrived with the provisions, she'd call for Freddy, and that willing youngster would hustle up the supplies and thus avert a domestic tragedy. When there was coal to be brought up or snow to be shoveled away, Fred Schneider could always be relied upon.

He isn't a little prig by any means. One look at his snappy gray eyes is proof of that. He's a real boy, with all of the mischievous pranks of his sex, but with a little more bravery than a great many.

Freddy has saved a life and rescued a child from a burning house just like a real moving picture hero. But judging from his description of the thrilling act, he looks upon it as an adventure rather than a deed of heroism.

SAVES BABY IN FIRE.

"It was this way," he says, shoving his hands deep down into his overalls pocket, "I was walking along in a Sunday school parade one afternoon, and just when we came to Fairmount avenue and 2d street I saw smoke. Johnny Christian, who was next to me, he saw it, too, and we made a dash."

"It was at 2d and Poplar streets and we got there just as the fire engines came up. Johnny and me went in right after the first fireman, and so talk about smoke. There was an old man over 70 years old in that house and a lady with her little boy. The kid was sleeping and I just grabbed him up and brought him downstairs and out the next door."

"The lady, she met me on the way back and kissed me right out on the street. She that was the lady. The remembrance of 'the lady' has brought a blush to Freddy's cheeks."

"Johnny and I stayed in the house for a long time. Doctor Patterson saw down on sheets through the window and kept lot of things from burning. When the firemen saw what we was doing, they handed us over the house just like we was real firemen," this with a note of pride, "and so we just stayed on and helped 'em out."

Being a Boy Scout at the present time, according to Fred Schneider, is a good deal different from being one when he first entered the organization.

"I went in it," he says naively, "because I saw the fellows going on long hikes in their little bloomers and I liked 'em, but I didn't know at that time how the rest of the fellows made fun of the bloomers. After I was taken in, I learned they used to call us names and sometimes throw things at us, but they don't do it any more, 'cause every fellow who isn't a Boy Scout wants to be one now."

FEEL LIKE SOLDIERS.

The change in the uniform from bloomers to the regulation military breeches and leggings was, in Freddy's opinion, one of the best moves the Scout leaders ever made. "It makes you feel like a soldier and makes you want to act like one," said he.

Fred Schneider has not been coddled in the lap of luxury, nor has his home influence been what the sociologists believe to be conducive to the best growth of young America, but Freddy fell under the influence of the Boy Scout movement when he was at the impressionable age, and it was a lucky day for him when he was taken with "the bloomers."

In the boy's picturesque phraseology the Boy Scouts is a good thing because it teaches a fellow to do stunts that are interesting without being bad, and the conclusion to be drawn from his statement is that a fellow has simply got to do "stunts" and that he'd just as leave do the constructive kind as the destructive ones, if some one would only get hold of him at the right period and tell him how.

"Freddy believes this, and so he has persuaded his little seven-year-old brother, Herman, to enter the ranks of the "be prepared." Not that Herman needed much persuasion.

"He's the mascot," said Freddy, "and the fellows treat him fine. They've made him the drum major, and, see, he looks awful cute in his uniform. He's a member of the band of Troop 21. He plays the bass drum and just at present all of his evenings are given over to practice for on December 3 a contest of all the Boy Scout bands is to be held in Independence Hall.

"We're giving a boxing cup, which we give to the best band," said he, "and you can bet we're going after it."

FLAMES CAUSE BIG LOSS TO BUILDING AT RIVERTON, N. J.

Telephone Operator Summons Firemen to Blaze Which Sweeps Tailoring Establishment.

RIVERTON, N. J., Nov. 27.—Firemen from four towns were summoned to fight flames which destroyed the building owned by J. S. Collins & Son, Inc., and occupied by Albert McCombe, a tailor, causing a loss of \$50,000 this morning.

Heroic work on the part of volunteers prevented the blaze from doing much damage to structures near by, which were ignited by sparks.

Miss Mary Strobel, night operator in the telephone exchange, opposite the Collins building, discovered the flames and sounded an alarm.

The Riverton Fire Company responded promptly to the summons and the Palmyra, Riverside and Moorestown companies were later sent for. Within an hour the flames were under control and the surrounding buildings of Joseph T. Evans, William N. Mattis, E. E. Compton and the New Era newspaper office had been saved, though some of them had been stre several times.

One of the peculiar incidents about the fire was the fact the flames did not spread to the butcher shop of William N. Mattis, which adjoined the burning building, while the Compton building, fully a hundred feet away became so hot that the fireman had to play the hose on it. The residence of William Eisele, 500 feet away, took fire on the roof several times, but was saved by the Riverside Company.

A new fire hydrant had been installed only a few weeks ago in the center of the district visited by fire this morning.

DOCTOR GIVES VIVID PICTURE OF PERILS OF CITY TENEMENTS

Dean Patterson, of Jefferson Medical College, Says Housing Conditions Are Cause of Disease.

Exposure, filth and insanitary plumbing in "cellar rooms" of the tenement districts, Dr. Ross V. Patterson, Dean of Jefferson Medical College, today said, were the three great causes for infant mortality.

Dr. Patterson, who has personally visited some of the houses, which resemble caves, gave a graphic word picture, showing why hundreds of babies come into the world dead.

It is also the belief of Dean Patterson, who is one of Philadelphia's leading practitioners, that the decrease in births in certain sections of the city is primarily due to insanitary conditions.

"Change present social conditions and then you will undoubtedly lower the death toll among infants as well as mothers," said Dr. Patterson.

Dr. Patterson is among the hundreds of noted experts on hygiene who are in favor of the new Division of Housing and Sanitation, for which Councils refuse to appropriate funds.

The act creating a Division of Housing and Sanitation was passed by the Legislature more than a year ago and was signed by Governor Tener. Every effort to get Councils to appropriate \$25,710 for the purpose of carrying the measure into effect has failed. The fate of the act now rests with the Committee on Finance of Council, of which John P. Connelly is chairman.

CONGESTED CONDITIONS COSTLY. Discussing Council's attitude towards the new housing laws, Dr. Patterson said:

"It would be much cheaper for the municipality to grant the appropriations now. Should Councils delay—it means that the city will be compelled to pay high figure for the acts of the sinners. I mean that if conditions are not changed the hospitals, almshouses, orphan asylums, and other charitable institutions will become crowded with victims of the tenements. The death toll which now exists can never be lowered while present conditions are not corrected."

Infant mortality, according to Dr. Patterson, can be traced in many cases directly to the door of the thousands of broken down, unventilated, insanitary, windowless, brickless and dust-covered tenements. Dr. Patterson said many cases of pneumonia, especially summer complaints among infants of the tenement districts, were attributable to filth in different "cellar rooms" which often are occupied by more than five persons.

CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY. "The three great causes for infant mortality and death of unborn children," said Dr. Patterson, "are bad plumbing, exposure and filth. Those three defects must be changed. The change must come during the year 1914."

"I feel certain and my colleagues will agree with me that the health of the mother and her unborn child, as well as the health of the living infant, is constantly in danger while the municipality sanctions the operations of certain tenement owners of this city."

"I have entered some of the 'cellar rooms' many times, and the scenes are pitiful. It is impossible for one unacquainted with the truth to believe that such revolting conditions actually exist in the twentieth century. Doctor Patterson says doubt whether such conditions are visible in European countries.

"During the summer season many infants are stricken with summer complaint. A careful study of this particular ailment causes me to believe that in many cases summer complaint is brought on by dirt, bad plumbing and other bad conditions."

"Relations to the unborn child, the present conditions must be changed for the sake of the next generation. The next generation can't become a healthy race while the present conditions prevail. "Often the fate of the unborn child is settled long before it is placed in its mother's arms. The conditions of 1914 in the tenement districts of Philadelphia are not good for the woman who is about to enter motherhood."

UNWHOLESOME ENVIRONMENT. "Picture to yourself where the prospective mother lives. Her home is in some small room. The probabilities are that the room is dingy or has to be lighted during the daytime with a kerosene light. When not in the apartment, which serves as a sleeping room, kitchen and parlor, she stands in a long, narrow alley. The alley, as a rule, is sandwiched between two tenements."

"What does she see all day?" "Similar cases as hers. She sees sick, pale and sunken-cheeked children, the dirty alley where the sun shines once in a great while. She hears her neighbors speak to her. Usually the topics deal with the insanitary conditions or the health of their loved one. Then she unfolds her tale of woe."

"Hearing stories of misery from other persons and constantly seeing evil conditions have often a terrible effect on motherhood."

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COOKE AWARDS CONTRACTS AGGREGATING \$1,776,528

Announces Successful Bidders for Street Cleaning and Ash Removal Work.

Contracts aggregating \$1,776,528 were awarded today by Director Cooke, of the Department of Public Works. This amount represents the cost of cleaning the streets, roads and markets and the collection of ashes and rubbish in all parts of Philadelphia during 1915.

The street cleaning work will cost \$1,232,847 and the cost of collecting and disposing of ashes and rubbish will amount to \$543,681.

The total cost for the work in 1915 is \$55,104 greater than during the current year, although even a larger increase had been expected by Director Cooke, because under the new specifications all country roads will be cleaned and sprinkled regularly. It had been estimated that this innovation would add \$10,000 to the cost of the work.

Director Cooke also divided in the new specifications the ash removing and street cleaning contracts, increasing competition. Heretofore the same contractor performed both services under the street cleaning contract. The awards of the contracts and the districts were as follows:

Table with columns for STREET CLEANING and COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF ASHES, listing various contractors and their respective amounts.

SCOUTS ON LONG HIKE Thirty Boys Walking to St. George's, Del., for Week-end.

Thirty Boy Scouts of Troop 28 started this morning on their annual winter hike from this city to St. George's, Del. They will spend tomorrow and Sunday as guests at the Nicetown Boys' Club bungalow at St. George's.

All the hikers are first or second class Scouts of Troop 28, which stands third among the troops of the city for efficiency. Each year the troop camps at St. George's. Two first-class Scouts, one of which has a place on the nautical patrol, have come from the ranks of this troop. They are James Kinaley, who came out as leader of the nautical patrol last year, and Raymond Tarbutk, who swam a mile at St. George's last summer and won a first-class classification.

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S. KIND & SONS DIAMOND MERCHANTS JEWELERS-SILVERSMITHS 110 CHESTNUT STREET



AUTHORS IN CITY TODAY Eugene Brieux, the French dramatist and author of "Damaged Goods," and Owen Wister, the novelist (with mustache), snapped on arrival at Broad Street Station today. The dramatist is shown with hand raised, watching the Army cadets marching through City Hall.

BRIEUX, AT LITTLE THEATRE. TALKS ON PLAYWRITING TO COMPLETE CASE AGAINST PHILADELPHIA ELECTRIC CO.

Director Cooke Says All Testimony Will Be in Next Friday.

Director Cooke, of the Department of Public Works, said today that all the testimony supporting his complaints against the Philadelphia Electric Company would be concluded at the hearings of the State Public Service Commission to be held at Harrisburg next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

His complaints against the organization, rates and service of the electric company were brought before the commission in an effort to secure lower rates for public and private users of electric current in Philadelphia.

Chief Judson Dickerman, of the Bureau of Gas, will be the first witness on Wednesday. His testimony will be offered to show discrimination of rates for electricity among consumers in this city and the relative rates here in comparison with schedules of charges in other cities.

With the conclusion of Director Cooke's side of the case, it is expected that the Philadelphia Electric Company will act on the suggestion of ex-Governor Pennington, who is presiding at the hearings, and submit a valuation record of the property of the company.

FALLS DEAD IN STREET

Marshall Davis, 56 years old, of 1316 West Walnut street, was found dead on the street last night at York road and Hunting Park avenue. Death was caused by heart disease. Davis was employed as a clerk in a Chestnut street house for 18 years, during which time he never lost a day's work.

LAWYER SENTENCED TO JAIL

Convicted of Swindling Woman Client Out of \$3000. TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 27.—Elwood W. Moore, a lawyer, today was sentenced to from two to three years in prison and a \$500 fine by Judge Nichols for embezzling upward of \$3000 from Ruth H. Stevens, of Black Hawk, Ia.

The judge said it would be a travesty on the law to permit Moore to go unpunished.

DIAMONDS Cheaper than elsewhere WM. LAYCOCK

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Kind's Jewelry Catalogue! 22,000 photographic illustrations of Diamonds, Watches, Jewelry and Silverware! Conveniently classified to make selection easy! Everything accurately described and priced. Hundreds of sensible gift suggestions! A valuable all-year-round reference book. Free on request.

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RIVAL MEXICAN CHIEFS REPORTED SEEKING PEACE

Negotiations Said to Be in Progress—Carranza Sets Up Government at Vera Cruz.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Negotiations are again in progress between Villa and Carranza for a peaceful solution of the entire Mexican problem. That was said here today to be the real reason why Consul John R. Silliman went to Vera Cruz to join Carranza. The leaders of the various Mexican factions are reported to be desirous of making at least one additional effort to get together before beginning a final battle with their armies for the mastery of the nation.

Meanwhile, Mexico today has four heads. Carranza rules in Vera Cruz, Zapata in Mexico City, Villa within a day's march of the Capital and Gutierrez at Queretaro.

The permanent committee of the Aguascalientes Commission, headed by Provisional President Gutierrez, is reported in dispatches reaching the State Department as due to leave Queretaro for Mexico City, so far, Villa is still outside of the Mexican capital, but he and Zapata are in accord, the State Department says, and his entry into the city is expected very soon.

Shipping continues at Naeco, where the forces of General Maytorena and General Hill still face each other, according to dispatches today to the War Department from General Bliss. Maytorena troops, including artillery, have concentrated only a short way from Naeco. Whether this indicated an intention by Maytorena to assault the town General Bliss did not say.

Consul Silliman called the State Department from Vera Cruz that he had arrived there safely. His telegram today said that Vera Cruz was quiet.

General Finston, commander of the Vera Cruz expeditionary force, today returned Secretary of War Garrison for two months' furlough, effective December 1. He will remain at Galveston until that time, preparing his report of the occupation of Vera Cruz. Because of granting this request, Secretary Garrison will delay the proposed shift of departmental commanders.

LEAVES \$139,000 TO FAMILY

Will of John W. Holland Admitted to Probate.

The will of John W. Holland, who died November 19 at 1202 North 18th street, admitted to probate today, bequeaths the \$139,000 estate to the widow, Annie E. Holland, children and adopted children. Personal property comprises \$130,000 of the estate. The West End Trust Company is named executor.

Other wills probated today are those of Rudolph C. Goldsmith, 409 Walnut street, estate valued at more than \$100,000; John B. Kline, 1315 Rockland street, \$15,000; Abner F. Steyer, 295 North 18th street, \$12,500; August Schmitt, 423 North 6th street, \$400.

Personal property of Emily Scheetz has been appraised at \$102,115. Emily T. Roberts, \$12,525.69; Annie E. Ramsey, \$8778.28, and Marion B. Wright, \$3120.88.

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